

**Brief Report: PAGE India National Consultations :  
New Delhi, India, August 20, 2019**

PAGE in India has set out – as one of its inception activities – to undertake a comprehensive stocktaking study in order to establish a baseline as well as to identify and elaborate priority areas for PAGE to support, taking into account potential synergies with existing initiatives that are key to the transition towards inclusive green economy in India. Under the assignment, TERI conducted a national consultative workshop in New Delhi on August 20, 2019 to further refine the priorities identified in the sub-national consultations and to deliberate upon the national issues focussing on tools and policy solutions specifically around SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) and synergies with SDG 8 (employment and economic growth). All the five UN PAGE agencies were represented at the workshop. The participants were drawn from among experts on sustainable economic development, MSMEs, resource efficiency, agriculture, livelihoods, ecosystems and biodiversity; government officials; policy think-tanks; representatives from industry associations, academia and research institutions; civil society representatives and other prominent stakeholders. The workshop saw presence of the senior level state functionaries including the Principal Secretary of the State of Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India in terms of population and senior officials from central government departments. Dr. Ajay Mathur, the Director General of TERI emphasised the importance of transition to a low carbon economy. Ms. Reema Nanavaty, Executive Director, Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) while addressing the plenary session, highlighted the perspective of gender equity and women’s role as change-makers for inclusive development.

Dr. Cristina Martinez, Senior Specialist, Environment and Decent Work, ILO while making a presentation, highlighted the importance of just transition in the context of high vulnerability of jobs due to climate change and countries transitioning to low carbon economies. Dr. Angus Mackay, Director, Division for Planet, UNITAR addressed the inaugural session underlining the importance of knowledge and skills for IGE transition.

The workshop which aimed at providing consultative inputs for the green economy stocktaking study; getting inputs on a roadmap for long-term sustainability of IGE interventions beyond PAGE and serving as a platform for networking, exchange of ideas and future partnerships; comprised three breakout sessions on thematic areas important in the national context. The three areas are **‘Sustainable Consumption and Production with a Focus on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and Eco-labels’**; **‘Resource Efficiency and Circularity in MSMEs’**; and **‘Employment and Livelihoods in the Context of Just Transitions’**. Each of the sessions was attended by relevant experts and practitioners and was moderated by an eminent expert/UN Agencies/PAGE to derive maximum consultative output.

The thematic area of ‘Sustainable Consumption and Production with a Focus on SPP and Eco-labels’ is an important focus area as not only India spends around 25 per cent of the GDP on Government procurement (MOF 2018), public procurement in India has also been used as a tool to achieve various social objectives of inclusion and empowerment. The key issues for discussion for this session included opportunities and challenges in SCP and SPP in India, increasing adoption and scaling up of green labelling and certification, rationalising the eco-labelling regime in India and institutional models and regulatory measures needed for SPP and eco-labels. The session deliberated upon ways and means to increase adoption and scaling up of green labelling and certification and institutional mechanisms to bring coherence for promoting standardization in this domain, given that the eco-labelling regime spans across the government and private domains both.

The thematic session on Resource Efficiency and Circularity in MSMEs discussed the current state of resource efficiency and circularity in MSME policy; Business models for circular economy and the paradigm of ‘remanufacturing’, ‘reduce’, ‘reuse’, ‘repair’, ‘refurbish and ‘recycle’; interventions in

terms of technology, innovation, finance and service delivery and their implications for skills and employment. It also discussed the industrial sectors which can be most promising for focused interventions in resource efficiency and the roadmap for such interventions.

The session on Employment and Livelihoods in the Context of Just Transitions deliberated upon the issues like implications of 'just transition' and decent jobs in the Indian context, green skills in the farm and non-farm sectors, the possibilities and trade-offs for achieving goals of social justice in a climate resilient economy and the interventions required in India for generating new skills for inclusive green transitions in India.

Apart from the sector-specific issues, the breakout sessions specifically dwelt upon the priority areas for IGE transition as also key interventions which PAGE should focus on in India for making a difference in the particular sector. The workshop emphasised the need to leverage upon the specific existing programmes of the government wherever possible. There were detailed deliberations on the stock-taking study being conducted by TERI for PAGE engagement plan in India following the presentations made the TERI team. The workshop was successful in bringing several stakeholders and decision makers on one platform. It could mobilize commitments from many important and relevant stakeholders in the sectoral and thematic areas, as well as government functionaries on PAGE, sparking deliberations on thematic areas and generating several interesting and actionable ideas for PAGE India engagement plan.